CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is

for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

5   determining the location of a wireless device;

        computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value

                characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

                determined location;

        storing the novelty index value in a database;

10   running a program to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value;

        accessing the database for information associated with the novelty index value;

        computing the result using said information.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining

the location of the wireless device by a global positioning system detector.

15 3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining

the location of the wireless device by a triangulation of mobile phone base stations.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining

the location of the wireless device by proximity to a Bluetooth device.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further

20   comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value proportional to how novel

it is for the wireless device to occupy the location.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which increases as the duration of time since the wireless device has occupied the location.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which decreases when the wireless device occupies the location.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing in the wireless device.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing further comprises storing in the wireless device.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing further comprises storing in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises running the program in the wireless device.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises running the program in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for a game program.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for a shopping discount program.

5   16. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for a lost child tracking program.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a database further comprises accessing a location corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a database further comprises

10   accessing a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of location values.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises computing the result in the wireless device.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises computing the result in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

15   21. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for an e-commerce program.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for a sports results program.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for a stock quotes program.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for a weather forecast program.

5   25. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of running a program further comprises determining a result for an online travel program.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises downloading distinctive ringing tones.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises

10   exchanging multimedia messages that combine text with photographic content.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises exchanging multimedia messages that combine text with image content.

29. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises exchanging multimedia messages that combine text with voice clip content.

15   30. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises exchanging multimedia messages.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises paying bills online.

32.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises delivering useful and informative advertising.

33.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises conducting transaction services from online merchants.

5   34.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises providing entertainment services.

35.   A system for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

    a processor;

10   a memory coupled to the processor, programmed to perform the steps of:

    determining the location of a wireless device;

    computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the determined location;

15   storing the novelty index value in a database;

    running a program to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value;

    accessing the database for information associated with the novelty index value; and

    computing the result using said information.

20   36.   The system of claim 35, which further comprises said processor being in the wireless device.

37.   A system for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

a sensor in a wireless device for determining the location of a wireless device;

a processor;

a memory coupled to the sensor and to the processor, programmed to perform the

steps of:

computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value

5   characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

determined location;

storing the novelty index value in a database;

running a program to determine a result that depends on the

novelty index value;

10   accessing the database for information associated with the novelty

index value; and

computing the result using said information.

38.   The system of claim 37, which further comprises said processor being in the wireless

device.

15   39.   The system of claim 37, which further comprises said processor being in a separate server

coupled to the wireless device..

40.   A system for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel

it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

a sensor in a wireless device for determining the location of a wireless device;

20   a processor in a separate server coupled to the wireless device, the processor

computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value

characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

determined location;

a database coupled to the processor, for storing the novelty index value;

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a processor in the wireless device, running a program to determine a result that

depends on the novelty index value; and

said processor in the wireless device accessing the database for information

associated with the novelty index value and computing the result using

said information.

10   41.   The system of claim 40, wherein the processor in the server computes a novelty index

value which is proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

location.

42.   The system of claim 41, wherein the processor in the wireless device accesses a location

corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

15   43.   The system of claim 41, wherein the processor in the wireless device accesses a novelty

index value corresponding to a requested range of location values.

44.   A business method for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how

novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

location of a wireless device;

20

computing a novelty determining the index value for the location, the novelty

index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to

occupy the determined location; and

computing a result using information associated with the novelty index value.

45. A method to enable a wireless device to provide recommendations to its user that are appropriate to the device's current environment, comprising:

receiving sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless

5   device;

processing the sensor signals with a context inference engine;

outputting a current context result from the processing by the context inference

engine;

computing a novelty index value for the current context result, the novelty index

10   value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

current context;

storing the novelty index value in a database;

running a program to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value;

accessing the database for information associated with the novelty index value;

15   and

computing the result using said information.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the processing of the sensor signals with the context inference engine is embodied as programmed instructions executed within the user's wireless device.

20 47. The method of claim 45, wherein the processing of the sensor signals with the context inference engine is embodied as programmed instructions executed within a separate network server in response to signals from the user's wireless device.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals, and the device's operational mode signals.

5   49. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of accessing a database further comprises accessing a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of accessing a database further comprises accessing a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of context values.

51. A method to enable a wireless device to provide recommendations to its user that are

10 appropriate to the device's current environment, comprising:

   providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device;

   processing the sensor signals and providing a current context result;

   computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value

15   characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context;

   storing recommendations associated the novelty index value; and

   accessing the database for recommendations associated with the novelty index value.

20 52. A system to provide recommendations to its user that are correlated to a wireless device's current environment, comprising:

   a sensor for providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device;

a context inference engine coupled to the sensor, for processing the sensor signals

and providing a current context result;

a processor coupled to the context inference engine, for computing a novelty

5   index value for the current context, the novelty index value characterizing

how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context;

a database coupled to the processor, for storing recommendations associated the

novelty index value; and

said processor accessing the database for recommendations associated with the

10   novelty index value.

53.   The system of claim 52, which further comprises said processor being in a separate server

from the wireless device, for computing a novelty index value which is proportional to

how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context.

54.   The system of claim 53, which further comprises a processor in the wireless device, for

15   accessing the database with a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty

index values.

55.   The system of claim 53, which further comprises a processor in the wireless device, for

accessing a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of context values.

56.   The system of claim 52, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group consisting

20   of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient light

signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals, and the

device's operational mode signals.

57.   A business method to enable a wireless device to provide recommendations to its user
        that are appropriate to the device's current environment, comprising:

                providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless
                device and providing a current context result;

5   computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value
                characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current
                context; and

                accessing recommendations associated with the novelty index value.

58.   The business method of claim 57, wherein said accessing further comprises accessing
10   recommendations with a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty
        index values.

59.   The business method of claim 57, wherein said accessing further comprises accessing
        recommendations with a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of
        context values.

15 60. The business method of claim 57, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group
        consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient
        light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals,
        and the device's operational mode signals.

61.   The business method of claim 57, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value
20   further comprises computing a magnitude for a novelty index value proportional to how
        novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context.

62.   The business method of claim 57, wherein the step of computing the novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for a novelty index value which increases as the duration of time since the wireless device has occupied the current context.

63.   The business method of claim 57, wherein the step of computing the novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for a novelty index value which decreases when the wireless device occupies the current context.

64.   The business method of claim 57, which further comprises computing a result using said accessed recommendations.

65.   A method for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

        determining the location of a wireless device;

        computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the determined location;

        storing the novelty index value in a database;

        running a program in a second terminal to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value;

        accessing with the second terminal the database for information associated with the novelty index value; and

        computing the result using said information.

66.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining the location of the wireless device by a global positioning system detector.

67. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining the location of the wireless device by a triangulation of mobile phone base stations.

68. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining the location of the wireless device by proximity to a Bluetooth device.

5 69. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the location.

70. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which increases as the

10 duration of time since the wireless device has occupied the location.

71. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which decreases when the wireless device occupies the location.

72. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further

15 comprises computing in the wireless device.

73. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

74. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of storing further comprises storing in the wireless device.

20 75. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of storing further comprises storing in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

76. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises running a program in a second wireless device.

77.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises running the program in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

78.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for a game program in the second terminal.

79.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for a shopping discount program in a second terminal.

80.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for a lost child tracking program in a second terminal.

81.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of accessing with the second terminal a database further comprises accessing with the second terminal a location corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

82.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of accessing with the second terminal a database further comprises accessing with the second terminal a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of location values.

83.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises computing the result in the second terminal.

84.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises computing the result in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

85.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for an e-commerce program in a second terminal.

86. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for a sports results program in a second terminal.

87. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for a stock quotes program in a second terminal.

5   88. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for a weather forecast program in a second terminal.

89. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of running a program in a second terminal further comprises determining a result for an online travel program in a second terminal.

10   90. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises downloading distinctive ringing tones.

91. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises exchanging multimedia messages that combine text with photographic content.

92. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises

15   exchanging multimedia messages that combine text with image content.

93. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises exchanging multimedia messages that combine text with voice clip content.

94. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises exchanging multimedia messages.

20   95. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises paying bills online.

96. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises delivering useful and informative advertising.

97.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises conducting transaction services from online merchants.

98.   The method of claim 65, wherein the step of computing the result further comprises providing entertainment services.

5   99.   A system for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

a sensor in a wireless device, for determining the location of the wireless device;

a server coupled to the wireless device, for computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the

10   wireless device to occupy the determined location;

a database coupled to the server, for storing the novelty index value;

a second terminal programmed to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value; and

the second terminal accessing the database for information associated with the

15   novelty index value and computing the result using said information.

100.   A system of claim 99, which further comprises said second terminal being a second wireless device.

101.   A system for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

20   a sensor in a wireless device for determining the location of a wireless device;

a first processor;

a first memory coupled to the sensor and to the first processor, programmed to perform the steps of:

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computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index

value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device

to occupy the determined location;

5   storing the novelty index value in a database;

a second processor;

a second memory coupled to the second processor, programmed to perform the

steps of:

determining a result that depends on the novelty index value;

10   accessing the database for information associated with the novelty

index value; and

computing the result using said information.

102.   A system of claim 101, which further comprises said first processor being in the wireless

device.

15   103.   A system of claim 101, which further comprises said second processor being in a second

wireless device.

104.   A system for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how novel it is for

a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

a sensor in a wireless device for determining the location of a wireless device;

20   a first processor in a separate server coupled to the wireless device,

the first processor computing a novelty index value for the

location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel

it is for the wireless device to occupy the determined location;

a database coupled to the first processor, for storing the novelty index value;

a second processor in a second terminal, running a program to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value; and

5 said second processor accessing the database for information associated with the novelty index value and computing the result using said information.

105. The system of claim 104, wherein the first processor in the server computes a novelty index value which is proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the location.

10 106. The system of claim 105, wherein the second processor in the second terminal accesses a location corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

107. The system of claim 105, wherein the second processor in the second terminal accesses a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of location values.

108. A business method for computing a result for a location, the result depending on how

15 novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

determining the location of a wireless device;

computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the determined location; and

20 computing a result in a second terminal using information associated with the novelty index value.

109. A method to provide recommendations that are appropriate to a wireless device's environment, comprising:

receiving sensor signals characterizing an environment of the wireless device;

processing the sensor signals with a context inference engine;

outputting a context result from the processing by the context inference engine;

5 computing a novelty index value for the context result, the novelty index value

characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

context;

storing the novelty index value in a database;

running a program in a second terminal to determine a result that depends on the

10 novelty index value;

accessing with the second terminal the database for information associated with

the novelty index value; and

computing the result using said information.

110. The method of claim 109, wherein the processing of the sensor signals with a context

15 inference engine is embodied as programmed instructions executed within the wireless

device.

111. The method of claim 109, wherein the processing of the sensor signals with a context

inference engine is embodied as programmed instructions executed within a separate

network server in response to signals from the wireless device.

20 112. The method of claim 109, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group

consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient

light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals,

and the device's operational mode signals.

113.   The method of claim 109, wherein the step of accessing with the second terminal a database further comprises accessing with the second terminal a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

114.   The method of claim 109, wherein the step of accessing with the second terminal a database further comprises accessing with the second terminal a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of context values.

115.   A method to provide recommendations that are appropriate for a wireless device's environment, comprising:

    providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device;

    processing the sensor signals and providing a current context result;

    computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context;

    storing recommendations associated the novelty index value; and

    accessing with the second terminal the database for recommendations associated with the novelty index value.

116.   A system to provide recommendations that are appropriate for a wireless device's current environment, comprising:

    a sensor for providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device;

    a context inference engine coupled to the sensor, for processing the sensor signals and providing a current context result;

a processor coupled to the context inference engine, for computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context;

5   a database coupled to the processor, for storing recommendations associated the novelty index value; and

a second terminal accessing the database for recommendations associated with the novelty index value.

117. The system of claim 116, which further comprises said processor being in a separate

10   server from the wireless device, for computing a novelty index value which is proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context.

118. The system of claim 117, which further comprises a second processor in the second terminal, for accessing the database with a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

15   119. The system of claim 117, which further comprises a second processor in the second terminal, for accessing the database with a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of context values.

120. The system of claim 116, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient

20   light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals, and the device's operational mode signals.

121. A business method to provide recommendations that are appropriate to a wireless device's current environment, comprising:

providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless

device and providing a current context result;

computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value

5   characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current

context; and

accessing with a second terminal recommendations associated with the novelty

index value.

122.   The business method of claim 121, wherein said accessing with the second terminal

10   further comprises accessing with the second terminal recommendations with a context

value corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

123.   The business method of claim 121, wherein said accessing with the second terminal

further comprises accessing with the second terminal recommendations with a novelty

index value corresponding to a requested range of context values.

15 124.   The business method of claim 121, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group

consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient

light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals,

and the device's operational mode signals.

125.   The business method of claim 121, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value

20   further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value proportional to how

novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context.

126.   The business method of claim 121, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which increases as the duration of time since the wireless device has occupied the current context.

127.   The business method of claim 121, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which decreases when the wireless device occupies the current context.

128.   The business method of claim 121, which further comprises computing a result using said accessed recommendations.

129.   A method for changing a wireless device configuration for a location, the configuration depending on how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

    determining the location of a wireless device;

    computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the determined location;

    storing the novelty index value in a database;

    running a program to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value;

    accessing the database for information associated with the novelty index value; and

    changing a configuration of the wireless device using said information.

130.   The method of claim 129, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining the location of the wireless device by a global positioning system detector.

131.   The method of claim 129, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining the location of the wireless device by a triangulation of mobile phone base stations.

132. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining the location of the wireless device by proximity to a Bluetooth device.

133. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the location.

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134. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which increases as the duration of time since the wireless device has occupied the location.

135. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing a magnitude for the novelty index value which decreases when the wireless device occupies the location.

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136. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing in the wireless device.

137. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of computing a novelty index value further comprises computing in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

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138. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of storing further comprises storing in the wireless device.

139. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of storing further comprises storing in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

20 140. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing mobile phone profile settings of the device.

141. The method of claim 129, wherein the step of running a program further comprises running the program in a separate server coupled to the wireless device.

142.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing the configuration immediately upon detecting a predetermined change in location of the device.

143.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing the configuration after a predetermined interval following detecting a predetermined change in location of the device.

144.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing the configuration after a dialog with the device's user following detecting a predetermined change in location of the device.

145.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing the appearance of the user interface of the device.

146.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing Internet browser settings of the device.

147.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing parameter settings predefined by the user of the device.

148.	The method of claim 129, wherein the step of changing a configuration of the wireless device further comprises changing parameter settings predefined by a separate server coupled to the device.

149.	A system for changing a wireless device configuration for a location, the configuration depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

	a sensor in a wireless device, for determining the location of the wireless device;

a server coupled to the wireless device, for computing a novelty index value for

the location, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the

wireless device to occupy the determined location;

5   a database coupled to the server, for storing the novelty index value;

a second terminal programmed to determine a result that depends on the novelty

index value;

the second terminal accessing the database for information associated with the

novelty index value and computing the result using said information; and

10   said wireless device changing its configuration using said result received from

said second terminal.

150.   A system of claim 149, which further comprises said second terminal being a second

wireless device.

151.   A system for changing a wireless device configuration for a location, the configuration

15   depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location, comprising:

a sensor in a wireless device for determining the location of a wireless device;

a first processor in a separate server coupled to the wireless device, the first

processor computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty

index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to

20   occupy the determined location;

a database coupled to the first processor, for storing the novelty index value;

a second processor in a second terminal, running a program to determine a result

that depends on the novelty index value;

said second processor accessing the database for information associated with the

novelty index value and computing the result using said information; and

said wireless device changing its configuration using said result received from

5   said second terminal.

152.   The system of claim 151, wherein the first processor in the server computes a novelty

index value which is proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

location.

153.   The system of claim 151, wherein the second processor in the second terminal accesses a

10   location corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

154.   The system of claim 151, wherein the second processor in the second terminal accesses a

novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of location values.

155.   A business method for changing a wireless device configuration for a location, the

configuration depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy the location,

15   comprising:

determining the location of a wireless device;

computing a novelty index value for the location, the novelty index value

characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the

determined location; and

20   computing a result in a second terminal using information associated with the

novelty index value; and

changing a configuration of the wireless device using said result received from

said second terminal.

156. A method to for changing a wireless device configuration depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy an environment, comprising:

receiving sensor signals characterizing an environment of the wireless device;

processing the sensor signals with a context inference engine;

5   outputting a context result from the processing by the context inference engine;

computing a novelty index value for the context result, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the context;

storing the novelty index value in a database;

10   running a program in a second terminal to determine a result that depends on the novelty index value;

accessing with the second terminal the database for information associated with the novelty index value; and

changing a configuration of the wireless device using said information received

15   from said second terminal.

157. The method of claim 156, wherein the processing of the sensor signals with the context inference engine is embodied as programmed instructions executed within the wireless device.

158. The method of claim 156, wherein the processing of the sensor signals with the context

20   inference engine is embodied as programmed instructions executed within a separate network server in response to signals from the wireless device.

159.　The method of claim 156, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals, and the device's operational mode signals.

5　160.　The method of claim 156, wherein the step of accessing with the second terminal a database further comprises accessing with the second terminal a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

161.　The method of claim 156, wherein the step of accessing with the second terminal a database further comprises accessing with the second terminal a novelty index value

10　corresponding to a requested range of context values.

162.　A method for changing a wireless device configuration depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy an environment, comprising:

providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device;

15　processing the sensor signals and providing a current context result;

computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context;

storing information associated the novelty index value;

20　accessing the database for information associated with the novelty index value; and

changing a configuration of the wireless device using said accessed information.

163. A system for changing a wireless device configuration depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy an environment, comprising:

a sensor for providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device;

5   a context inference engine coupled to the sensor, for processing the sensor signals and providing a current context result;

a processor coupled to the context inference engine, for computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context;

10   a database coupled to the processor, for storing recommendations associated the novelty index value; and

a second terminal accessing the database for recommendations associated with the novelty index value and

said wireless device changing a configuration using said recommendations

15   received from said second terminal.

164. The system of claim 163, which further comprises said processor being in a separate server from the wireless device, for computing a novelty index value which is proportional to how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context.

165. The system of claim 163, which further comprises a second processor in the second

20   terminal, for accessing the database with a context value corresponding to a requested range of novelty index values.

166. The system of claim 163, which further comprises a second processor in the second terminal, for accessing the database with a novelty index value corresponding to a requested range of context values.

167. The system of claim 163, wherein the sensor signals are selected from the group consisting of positioning signals, touch signals, audio signals, compass signals, ambient light signals, ambient temperature signals, three-axis acceleration signals, time signals, and the device's operational mode signals.

168. A business method for changing a wireless device configuration depending on how novel it is for a wireless device to occupy an environment, comprising:

> providing sensor signals characterizing a current environment of the wireless device and providing a current context result;
>
> computing a novelty index value for the current context, the novelty index value characterizing how novel it is for the wireless device to occupy the current context; and
>
> accessing with a second terminal recommendations associated with the novelty index value; and
>
> changing a configuration of said wireless device using said recommendations received from said second terminal.